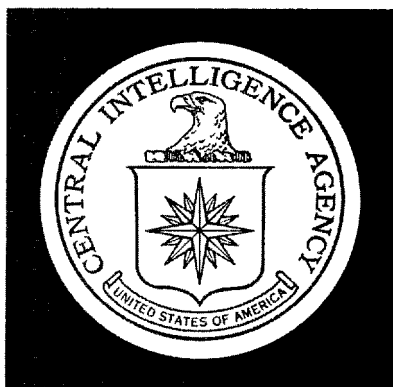


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Nigeria: The ruling Supreme Military Council (SMC) is to meet today in Benin City to discuss basic constitutional arrangements, but Eastern Governor Ojukwu's attendance remains doubtful.

A representative of Ghana's General Ankrah, who hosted the last SMC meeting, has been trying to persuade Ojukwu to go to the Benin meeting. The main item on the agenda is the question of greater Eastern autonomy. However, the recently increased tensions between Supreme Commander Gowon and Ojukwu make it unlikely that Ojukwu will attend. The Ghanaians have also suggested another Gowon-Ojukwu meeting in Ghana, which Ojukwu may find more acceptable.

[The federal government reportedly is planning a series of economic measures designed to "strangle" the East if Ojukwu continues to move toward autonomy. Gowon probably is considering military action as a last resort.]

Although Ojukwu still hopes a peaceful solution can be found, the East is gearing up for an early attack by federal forces. Ojukwu reportedly has made a deal with certain top Yoruba leaders from the Western Region who have become disenchanted with Gowon. The Yorubas have long resented the presence in their land of the predominantly Northern army and may be planning some sort of military action to rid themselves of the Northerners.

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*Indonesia: [The army has apparently moved against an armed, pro-Sukarno band in central Java as part of its general effort to guarantee security while the congress debates Sukarno's future. The rebel leader, a prominent mystic, and 80 of his followers reportedly were killed in a clash with army paracommando units on 5 March. The army took action when the leader refused to heed earlier warnings from the military to cease his pro-Sukarno activities.]

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